The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A method for forming a multicellular ceramic article, the method comprising:

a. forming a mixture of components comprising inorganic ceramic powder materials, a binder, an aqueous solvent for the binder, and an oil-based component having a flash point;

b. mixing and plasticizing the components to form a plasticized mixture;

c. shaping the plasticized mixture into a green ~~ceramic~~ honeycomb article;

d. drying the green ~~ceramic~~ honeycomb article;

e. removing a portion of the oil-based component from the green ~~ceramic~~ honeycomb article by flowing a heated gas longitudinally through the green ~~ceramic~~ honeycomb article, wherein the heated gas is flowed at a rate of 0.2 to 8 standard cubic feet per minute (scfm) per 90 cubic inches of the green honeycomb article; and,

f. firing the green ~~ceramic~~ honeycomb article having a portion of the oil-based component removed to form the multicellular ceramic article.

2. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein the multicellular ceramic article is a cellular monolith.

3. **(canceled)**

4. **(canceled)**

5. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 4 wherein the heated gas is flowed at a rate of 4 to 8 scfm per 90 cubic inches of the green ~~ceramic~~ honeycomb article.

6. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 5 wherein the heated gas is at a temperature which heats the green ~~ceramic~~ honeycomb article below the flash point of the oil-based component.

7. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 6 wherein the gas is at a temperature which can heat the green ~~ceramic~~ honeycomb article to between 110°C to 165°C.

8. **(original)** The method of claim 7 wherein the heated gas is air.

9. **(original)** The method of claim 8 wherein the air is maintained at a temperature of between 120°-140°C.

10. **(original)** The method of claim 7 wherein the heated gas is nitrogen (N_2).

11. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 10 wherein the N_2 is maintained at a temperature of between 155°-160°C.

12. **(original)** The method of claim 10 wherein the N_2 gas is recirculated.

13. **(original)** The method of claim 1 wherein at least 70% of the oil-based component is removed.

14. **(original)** The method of claim 13 wherein at least 85% of the oil-based component is removed.

15. **(original)** The method of claim 14 wherein at least 95% of the oil-based component is removed.

16. **(original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the portion of oil-based component that is removed is reused in step a.

17. **(canceled)**

18-27. **(canceled)**

28. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the aqueous solvent is water.

29. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the binder is a cellulose ether binder.

30. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the binder comprises methylcellulose or a methylcellulose derivative.

31. **(currently amended)** A method for forming a multicellular ceramic article, the method comprising:

forming a mixture of components comprising inorganic ceramic powder materials, a binder, an aqueous solvent for the binder, and an oil-based component having a flash point;

mixing and plasticizing the components to form a plasticized mixture;

shaping the plasticized mixture into a green ~~ceramic~~ honeycomb article; then

removing at least 70% of the oil-based component from the green ~~ceramic~~ honeycomb article by flowing a heated gas longitudinally through the green ~~ceramic~~ honeycomb article for less than or equal to about 1 hour, wherein the heated gas is flowed at a rate of 0.2 to 8 standard cubic feet per minute (scfm) per 90 cubic inches of the green honeycomb article; and, then

firing the green ~~ceramic~~ honeycomb article into the multicellular ceramic article.

32. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 31 wherein at least 85% of the oil-based component is removed prior to the firing.

33. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 31 wherein at least 95% of the oil-based component is removed prior to the firing.

34. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 31 wherein the heated gas is flowed longitudinally through the green ~~ceramic~~ honeycomb article for less than 15 minutes.

35. **(canceled)**

36. **(canceled)**

37. **(currently amended)** A method for forming a multicellular ceramic article, the method comprising:

forming a mixture of components comprising inorganic ceramic powder materials, a binder, an aqueous solvent for the binder, and an oil-based component having a flash point;

mixing and plasticizing the components to form a plasticized mixture;

shaping the plasticized mixture into a green honeycomb article comprising longitudinal cells; then

positioning the green honeycomb article on a support device such that the longitudinal cells are arranged vertically; then

forcing a heated gas vertically through the longitudinal cells of the green ~~ceramic~~ honeycomb article, wherein the heated gas is flowed at a rate of 0.2 to 8 standard cubic feet per minute (scfm) per 90 cubic inches of the green honeycomb article; then

firing the green ~~ceramic~~ honeycomb article into the multicellular ceramic article.

38. **(new)** A method for forming a multicellular ceramic article, the method comprising:

forming a mixture of components comprising inorganic ceramic powder materials, a binder, an aqueous solvent for the binder, and a component having a flash point;

mixing and plasticizing the components to form a plasticized mixture;

shaping the plasticized mixture into a green honeycomb article; then

flowing a gas through the green ceramic article and controlling the temperature and the velocity of the gas sufficient to heat the green honeycomb article to remove at least a portion of the component, followed by cooling of the green honeycomb article; and, then

firing the green honeycomb article into the multicellular ceramic article.